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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs - Radio-TV Division Washington, D.C. 20250 (202) 720-4330

Letter No. 2578

October 2, 1992

VITAMIN E CAN HELP REDUCE MUSCLE DAMAGE -- A USDA study shows that extra vitamin E reduces the tissue-damaging oxygen radicals the body generates during exercise. The muscle damage caused during exercise can lead the immune system to attack the damaged tissue. A nutritionist at the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging finds that vitamin E blunts the immune signals that trigger inflammation in both young and old. "It appears that vitamin E is controlling the magnitude of the inflammatory response," says nutritional immunologist Simin Meydani. **Contact: Judy McBride (301) 504-8932.**

INCREASE IN SWEETPOTATO WHITEFLY PROGRAM -- USDA announced that in fiscal 1993 it will nearly double the funding of sweetpotato whitefly funding, increasing the amount from \$3.5 million to \$6.2 million. "USDA has made control of this pest a high priority," says Duane Acker, USDA's assistant secretary for science and education. USDA is concentrating its efforts on nationwide research, cooperating with universities, state agricultural experiment stations, private industry and state governments. Whiteflies are responsible for damage to cotton, carrots, broccoli, citrus, peppers, and some 500 other crops and plant species. **Contact: Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623.**

MORATORIUM PROVIDED FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS -- Victims of Hurricane Iniki who financed their homes through Farmers Home Administration will be provided a 120-day moratorium on their mortgage payments, accounting for nearly 470 homes on the Island of Kauai. FmHA is working in conjunction with private insurers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Small Business Administration to provide housing repair grants and loans. Deputy Secretary Ann Veneman says that similar relief was allowed for Hurricane Andrew victims in Florida and Louisiana. **Contact: Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623.**

U.S. TOBACCO QUANTITY UP WHILE USE IS DOWN -- USDA's Economic Research Service reports that U.S. tobacco production in crop year 1992/93 is up because of increased acreage. However, prices for flue-cured tobacco are below a year earlier because of declining domestic consumption and cigarette exports. U.S. cigarette consumption is expected to fall because of higher cigarette prices, increased health concerns and smoking restrictions. Cigarette exports are also decreasing because some importers lack funds to purchase the cigarettes and because more countries are producing their cigarettes locally. **Contact: Verner Grise (202) 219-0890.**

CROP ROTATION HELPS ELIMINATE WORMS -- A study by USDA's Agricultural Research Service says that planting corn followed by cotton the next season reduced reniform nematodes numbers by as much as 97%. The reniform nematode infects the roots of cotton plants. The nematodes can't establish a feeding site in the corn root tissue, and therefore don't build up or reproduce. At a time when chemical controls for nematodes are dwindling, rotating corn plantings could provide relief for cotton growers. Research also shows that nematodes attack okra, squash, tomato, tobacco and pineapple plants. **Contact: Jan Suszkiw (301) 504-8095.**

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY STRUGGLING -- Hurricane Andrew is being blamed for causing considerable damage to the Louisiana seafood industry. Storm surges dug up organic materials from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, which caused a loss in the oxygen in the water. Oyster beds have been covered with debris, suffocating the oysters. Some damage is expected to the crawfish industry, although the full extent will not be known until harvesting begins in November. **Contact: David Harvey (202) 219-0888.**

STATES RECEIVE INTERIM PAYMENTS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS -- By law, the Forest Service must pay 25% of the revenues it collects from timber sales, grazing, recreation, minerals, and land uses to states in which national forests are located. "We estimate these states will eventually receive over \$314 million as their total payments from national forest receipts for the year," said F. Dale Robertson, Chief of the USDA Forest Service. Last year the payments to states total more than \$346 million. The payments will be made to forty-one states and Puerto Rico; the largest payments going to Oregon, California, Washington, and Idaho. The funds paid to states are used for schools and roads. **Contact: Ann Matejko (202) 205-0929.**

AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK '93 CONFERENCE -- USDA's Agriculture Outlook '93 will be held December 1-3, 1992, in Washington, DC. The keynote address will be delivered by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, who will set the tone for presentations from economic and farm prospects to the impacts of the changing international conditions on the future of U.S. agriculture. Agribusiness matters, such as the retail food outlook and farm finance, will also be discussed. Major conference sessions will be aired for television on C-band satellite. Audio and video tapes, as well as published proceedings will also be provided. **Contact: Ray Bridge (202) 720-5447.**

USDA'S TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE OFFERED ON AG NEWSFAX -- Beginning Friday, October 2, TV broadcasters will be able to use the Ag NewsFAX to receive a summary of what is on USDA's Television News Service. The information will be updated every Friday at 5 PM ET. To receive the TV news summary, use a touchtone phone connected to your FAX machine to call (202) 690-3944. At the voice prompts, press 1, press 4, enter 9260, press the #, press 3 and hit the start button on your FAX machine. Copies of some TV scripts will also be available on Ag NewsFAX. Dial (202) 690-3944, press 1, press 4, enter 9270, press the #, press 3 and hit the start button. If you want both the summary and the scripts, when the phone answers enter 1 4 9260 9270 # 3 and hit the start button. **Contact: News Division (202) 720-4026**

*R-TV Fax: (202) 690-2165
Ag NewsFAX (202) 690-3944*

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA # 1843 -- On this edition, Brenda Curtis travels to South Florida and talks to the victims of Hurricane Andrew. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME # 1325 -- Food for Andrew's victims; post traumatic stress and Hurricane Andrew; an early look at this winter's weather; making saving a habit; a microwave revolution. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1834 -- USDA News highlights; 1993 feed grain payments; deficiency payment update; trash to manure; an early winter weather prediction. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1540 -- A breastfeeding myth; breastfeeding and dieting; nutritional newcomer; cost-cutting cooking oil; soybean savings. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Tuesday, October 13, weekly weather and crop outlook; Thursday, October 15, ag resources report; Friday, October 16, milk production report. Monday, October 19, U.S. ag outlook and U.S. ag trade update. **These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling.**

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

FEATURES -- **Lynn Wyvill** reports on research to improve crop productivity and **Dana Bama** reports on 4-H youth help for Florida hurricane victims.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA chief meteorologist **Norton Strommen** on the latest crop and weather developments; USDA economist **Joel Greene** on agricultural trade update; USDA economist **David Harvey** on catfish production; USDA economist **Peter Buzzanell** on U.S. sugar production and impact of the hurricanes on crops.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- **Deboria Janifer** reports on sugar cane research; **Pat O'Leary** reports on the USDA We C.A.R.E. conservation team in Delaware; and **Lynn Wyvill** reports on starch encapsulated pesticides.

EVERY OTHER WEEK -- **Agriculture Update**, five minutes of USDA farm program information in "news desk" format with B-roll.

*Available on Satellite **Galaxy 6**, channel 23, audio 6.2 or 6.8, downlink frequency 4160 MHz.: **Thursdays** from 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT, **Saturdays** from 10 - 10:30 a.m., EDT, and **Mondays** from 8 - 8:30 a.m., EDT.*

OFFMIKE

POSITIVE MESSAGE...is being registered between rice growers and environmentalists in California, says **John Butler** (KFBK, Sacramento). The industry opened a door for dialogue with environmental groups. Through this exchange of information, the perception of the industry has changed to one of a provider of wetlands and forage for migratory birds and wildlife. John says a big story continues to develop between production agriculture and a coalition of the fishing industry with environmental groups over control of water.

LIVE COVERAGE...was conducted by **Ron Powers** (WOWO, Ft. Wayne, IN) of the Farm Science Review exhibits and demonstrations in London, OH in late September. Ron says about 80,000 people attended. Ron also covered the Farm Progress Show, held in Columbus, IN, Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

FAIR SEASON...has ended for another year, says **David Lee** (KHMO, Hannibal, MO). Dave says attendance and livestock sales were higher at the county fairs he covered.

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LAST BROADCAST...of the daily "Morning Ag Report," will be transmitted via satellite to about 60 TV stations across the nation on Oct. 2, 1992. **Wayne Jenkins** (MAR Managing Editor, Indianapolis, IN) says the program has been purchased by "AG DAY." Wayne says he plans to spend some time traveling in southern Ireland. Wayne has been in ag TV since 1960, and ag network programming since 1982. **Al Pell** (AG DAY, South Bend, IN) says they will integrate stations into their lineup.

TV SATELLITE BROADCAST...sponsored by the Kansas Farm Bureau was hosted by **Kelly Lenz** (WIBW/Kansas Ag Network, Topeka). The 90-minute transmission on September 29 was designed to help soybean and sunflower producers understand options available in USDA's oilseed marketing loan program. It featured Extension Service, ASCS, and Kansas Farm Bureau marketing specialists in a question and answer format.

VIC POWELL
Chief, Radio and TV Division